

No. R-91. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Maple Grove Farms on its centennial anniversary.

(S.C.R.13)

By Senators Kitchel, Benning, Starr, and Westman,

By Representatives Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Conquest of Newbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Higley of Lowell, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Quimby of Concord, Shaw of Derby, Strong of Albany, Toll of Danville, Troiano of Stannard, Viens of Newport City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Young of Glover,

Whereas, for Vermonters and visitors alike, a favorite embodiment of Vermont is Maple Grove Farms in St. Johnsbury, the purveyor of maple products of all types, and

Whereas, in 1915, Helen Gray, a home economics student at Columbia University, was back in St. Johnsbury on summer break, and

Whereas, following the advice of her professors to try out at home the things they were learning in the classroom, Helen, with the assistance of her mother, Katherine, and a friend, Ethel McLaren, experimented with maple sugar and, using their own recipes, they developed a delicious maple candy, and

Whereas, their first customer was Mrs. Henry Fairbanks of the famous St. Johnsbury family, and the candy's popularity led to the conversion of a shed on the Gray property into a maple kitchen, and

Whereas, within four years, this home business had been transformed into a corporation, and Katherine Gray purchased an old mansion, converting it into a factory for making candy and other maple products, and

Whereas, Katherine Gray also operated a maple-themed restaurant and retail store in New York City, and

Whereas, the Portland Street factory building, now home to Maple Grove Farms, was constructed in 1926 as a facility to manufacture block maple to flavor cigars, and

Whereas, the headquarters complex features a sugar house museum and the popular red-roofed Cabin Gift Shop, and

Whereas, the hard-working employees of Maple Grove Farms produce tens of millions of dollars' worth of food products each year, and

Whereas, Maple Grove Farms is now proud to be the nation's largest packer of pure maple syrup, one of the largest producers of maple candies, and a national producer of gourmet salad dressings, and

Whereas, in 2015, Maple Grove Farms is observing 100 years since three St. Johnsbury women's maple candy experiment launched a successful, and still thriving, Northeast Kingdom business icon, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Maple Grove Farms on its centennial anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Maple Grove Farms.